PEOPLE'S CHINA IN PICTURES

CULTURAL LIFE OF THE CHINESE WORKERS

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Cultural Life of the Chinese Workers

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Preface

The workers in old China had no access whatever to culture or education. Cultural activities were a luxury far beyond their reach. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, however, the Chinese working class has not only shaken off political oppression and economic exploitation, it has also won the right to the enjoyment of culture. The state has spared nothing to provide the best available material conditions for promoting the cultural, educational and athletic activities of the workers and other employees. In the wake of the rapid development of socialist construction, such activities have become more and more widespread.

Under the policy to link education with productive labour, spare-time education for the workers and other employees in New China has developed extensively. Remarkable achievements have been made in the efforts to wipe out the widespread illiteracy that existed at the time of liberation, institute universal primary education among the workers, raise their general cultural level, promote their philosophical studies and raise their understanding of political theory, and in the rapid training of technicians and the pushing forward of the movement for technical revolution and technical innovations. In the course of socialist construction, the Chinese workers have displayed the revolutionary spirit of daring to think and act, and in their studies they have likewise shown an unsatiable urge to probe into culture and science, and a tenacious spirit of defying difficulties.

The artistic and literary activities of the workers have entered a new phase in which they are going forward with tremendous vigour and on an increasingly wide scale. The workers are using rich and varied forms of art and literature of their own authorship, own directing and own production, to laud with great fervour the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the general line for socialist construction, the big leap forward and the people's communes. From their ranks have emerged a whole series of amateur actors, singers, writers, poets and painters who have brought fresh strength to the art and literary front of New China.

Spare-time sports activities among the workers and other employees have also been promoted on an extensive scale. These activities have enriched their cultural life and helped improve their health, and thus contributed positively to production, work and study. The notable development of physical culture and sports on a mass scale has resulted in raising China's athletic standards. Moreover, it is precisely from the ranks of these amateur worker athletes that many of China's Masters of Sports and other outstanding national athletes of today have emerged.

The workers of New China, with the solicitous concern, help and encouragement of the Communist Party and the People's Government, are tremendously keen on cultural, educational and athletic activities. In this they have displayed the unbounded wisdom and inestimable power of the working class, and have contributed to the further flourishing of China's cultural and educational undertakings.

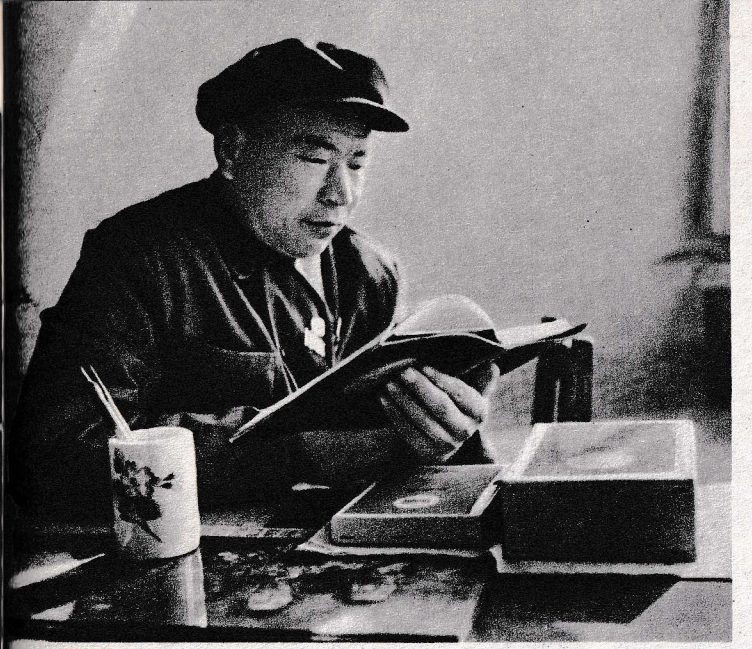
At the end of their daily stint in the factory, workers make their way to night school

THE workers and other employees all over China are in the midst of a movement to study Chairman Mao's works. They are also making intensive studies of the Party's policies and current events at home and abroad. These studies have not only raised their political consciousness and theoretical level, but have also helped to improve their working methods and push up production.

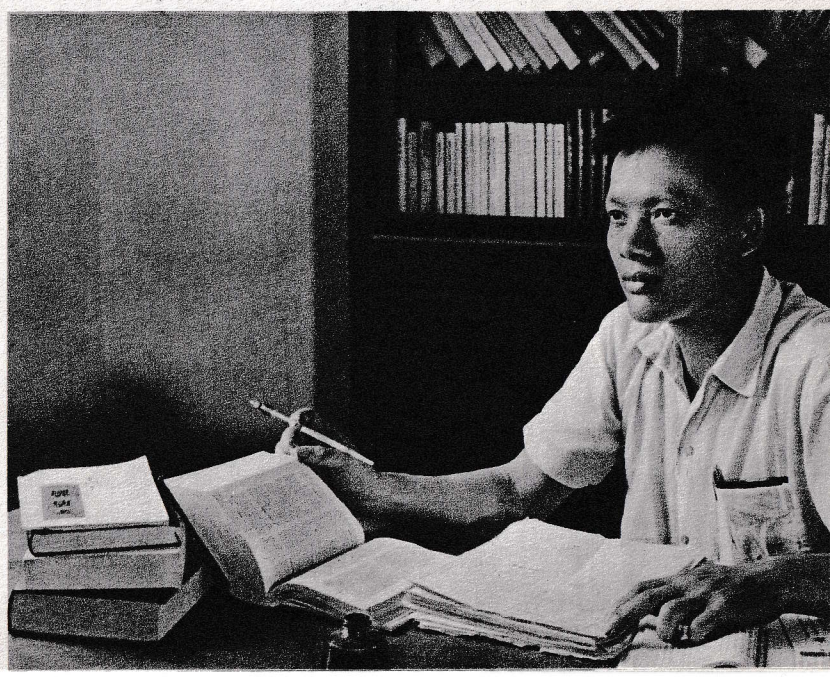
Members of the well-known Ma Heng-chang team of machine-builders in northeastern China hard at their study of political theories

Machine-tool workers at a lecture on Chairman Mao's philosophical work *On Practice*

Railway workers study Chairman Mao's works in the evening



Shih Chuan-hsiang, a Peking night-soil collector who has won the title of advanced worker, is seen here studying the *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung* which he received as a gift from Chairman Liu Shao-chi

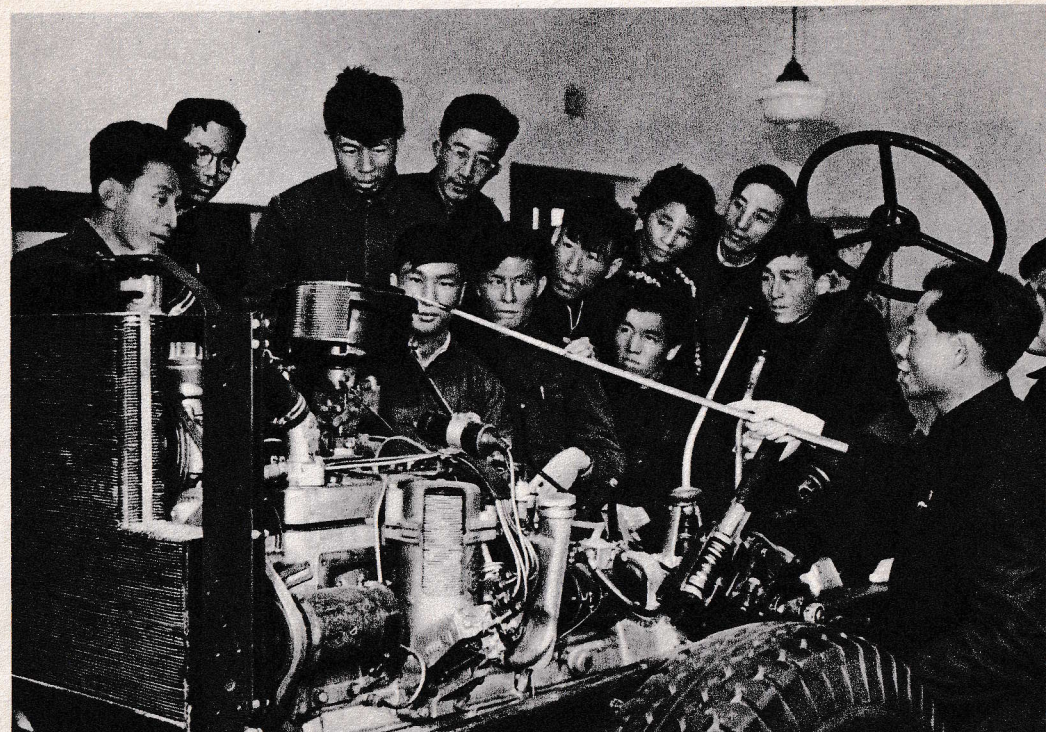


Chou Pao-lin, a fitter from Shanghai, is also a theoretician. His lectures on *On Contradiction*, another of Chairman Mao's philosophical works, are warmly received by college students

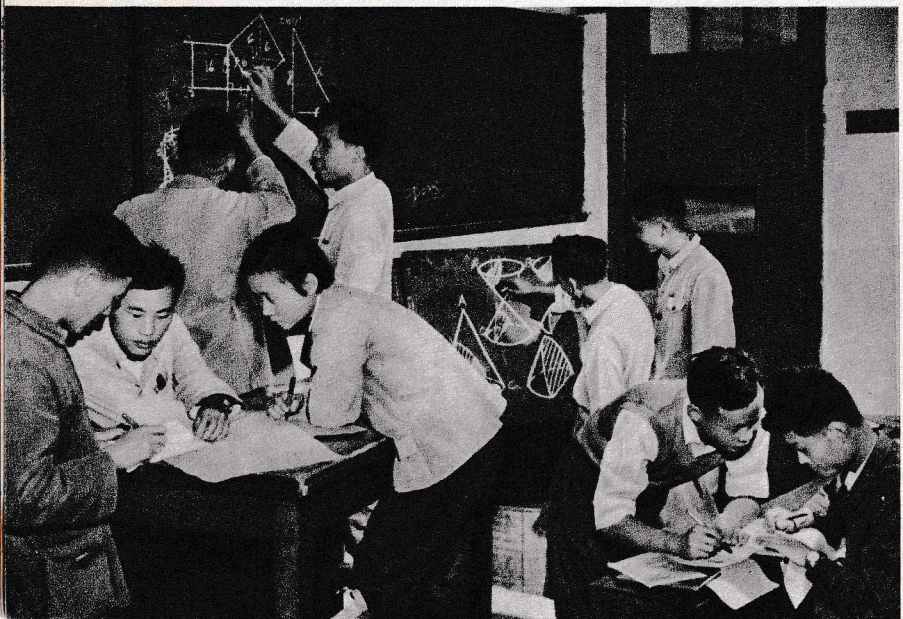
Lumbermen of Heilungkiang Province at their study of current events and Party and government policies

FOLLOWING the rapid development of China's national construction, the workers have displayed an ever greater desire to know more about culture in general and technology in particular. Factories, mines and other enterprises are therefore sponsoring spare-time classes to speed up the training of large numbers of technicians from among their workers. This is one of the many steps taken to help the workers to become well educated in the shortest possible time.

Students of a spare-time secondary vocational school run by a motor-car factory studying mechanics

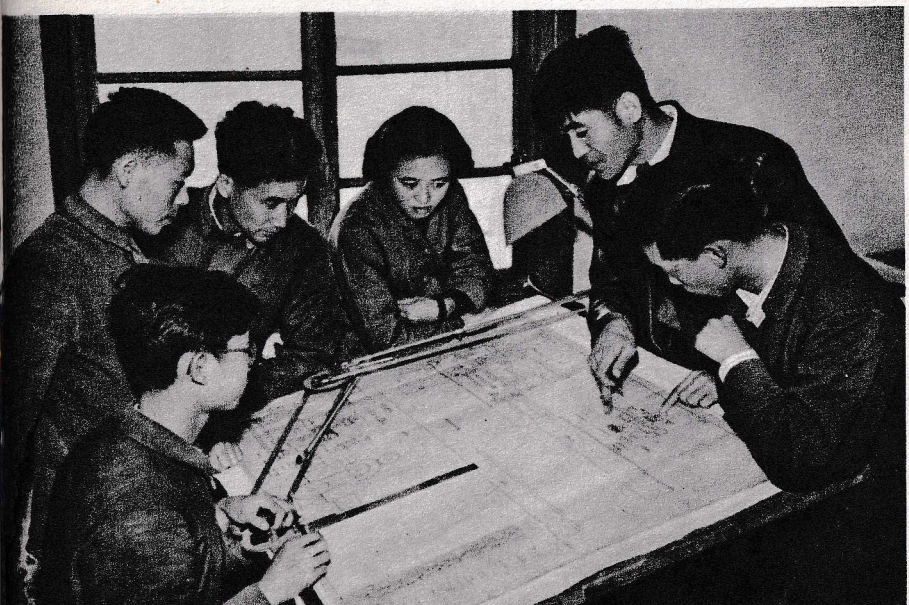


These night school students come from over a hundred different factories, mines and other enterprises. The school is run by a college



Shanghai workers studying in an evening college

Wang Chuan-chuan from Shanghai, a spare-time college student and an advanced textile worker, is seen here going through her lessons with the help of her instructor

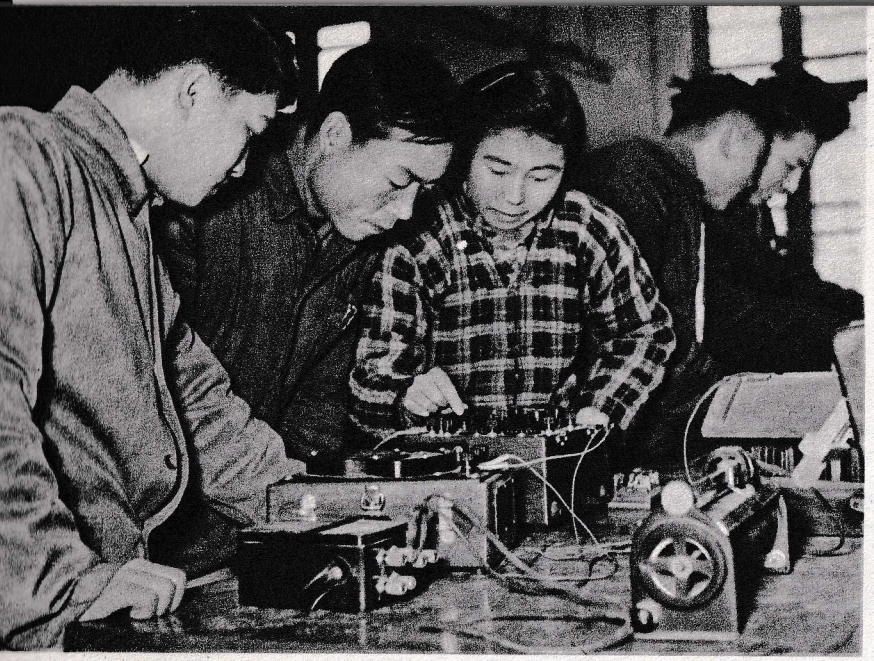


Fifth-year students of a spare-time college run by a heavy machine-tool factory prepare for their graduation paper

This group of students, who work in the Penki Mining Administration, study through the correspondence school of an engineering institute in Liaoning Province. The institute has branches in the mining areas throughout northeastern China

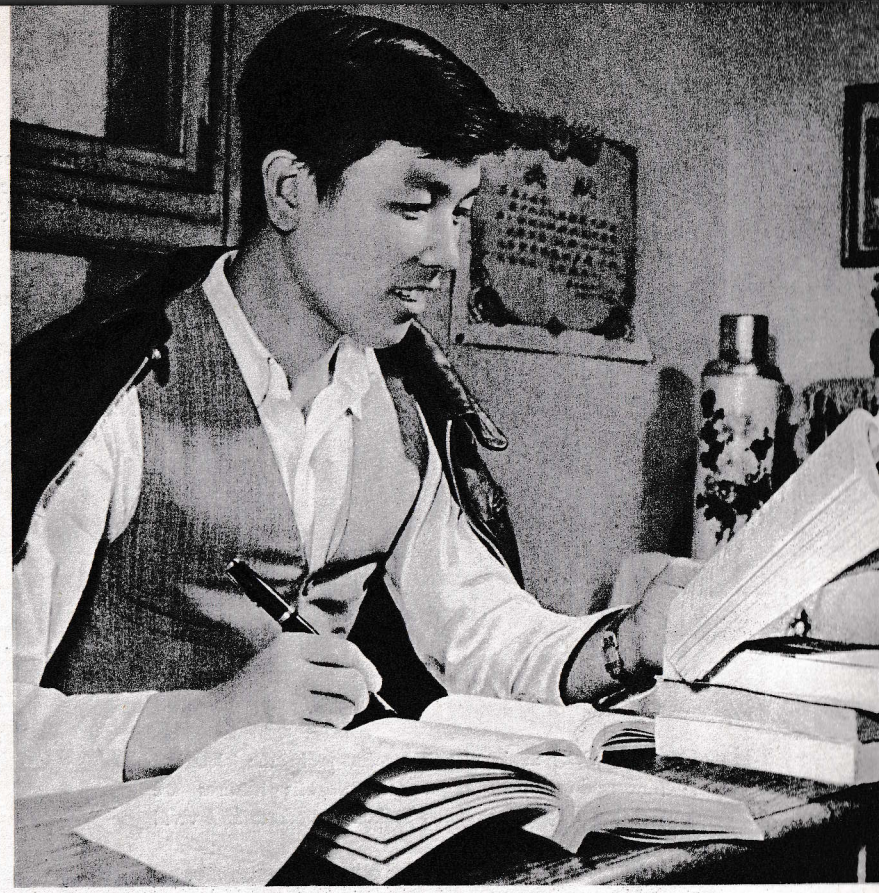
Students of Peking's Television University at a lecture

Workers of a measuring instruments and cutting tools plant consult books on technology to improve their own working tools



Electricians at work in the lab of the Tientsin Spare-time University of Electrical Engineering

In the lab of a spare-time secondary school run by a textile mill



Feng Chih-tai, a steel worker, studies metallurgy in his spare time

Wang Feng-en, a fitter who had only three years of schooling before liberation, has come forward with a whole series of technical innovations in recent years as a result of his hard study. He was promoted to the post of engineer and is a deputy to the Second National People's Congress

Wang Feng-en is also a professor in the electrical power department of a college. His lectures are welcomed by the students as being concrete and vivid

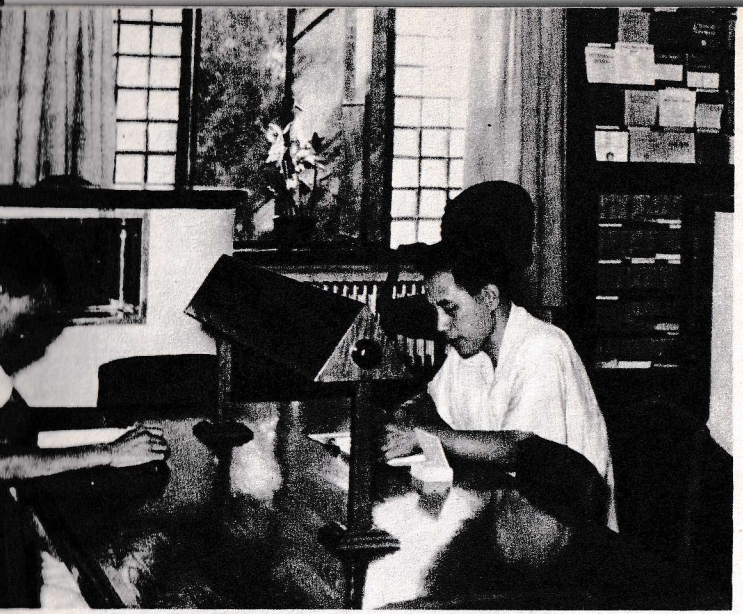
These two instructors of the Peking Mining Institute, Pang Chung-hsiu (right) and Chia Kuei-wu, are both ex-miners who knew only misery in old China. Since liberation they have gone through the schooling they missed in their youth and are both university graduates

EVERY factory has its own library to help workers widen their knowledge and learn more about politics, culture and technique. The librarians go to no end of trouble to take the books to the workers at the bench and on the construction sites, or even to their homes.

A corner of the library at the Peking Working People's Cultural Palace

A mobile library for railway workers

A mobile library at a machine-tool shop



A corner of the reading room of a medical library in Tientsin

The Changchun Library in the Northeast delivers books to a motor-car plant

Textile workers in the reading room of their hostel

THE cultural palaces and clubs are the favourite gathering places of the workers in their leisure hours. These cultural centres run exhibitions of all kinds, popularize advanced experiences in the movement for technical innovations and technical revolution, spread scientific knowledge and hold lectures on various subjects. Workers' amateur theatrical groups frequently put on their shows in these centres.

The Kuochiatan Workers' Club, Sian, Shensi Province. It has a theatre, recreational room, art studio and sports ground

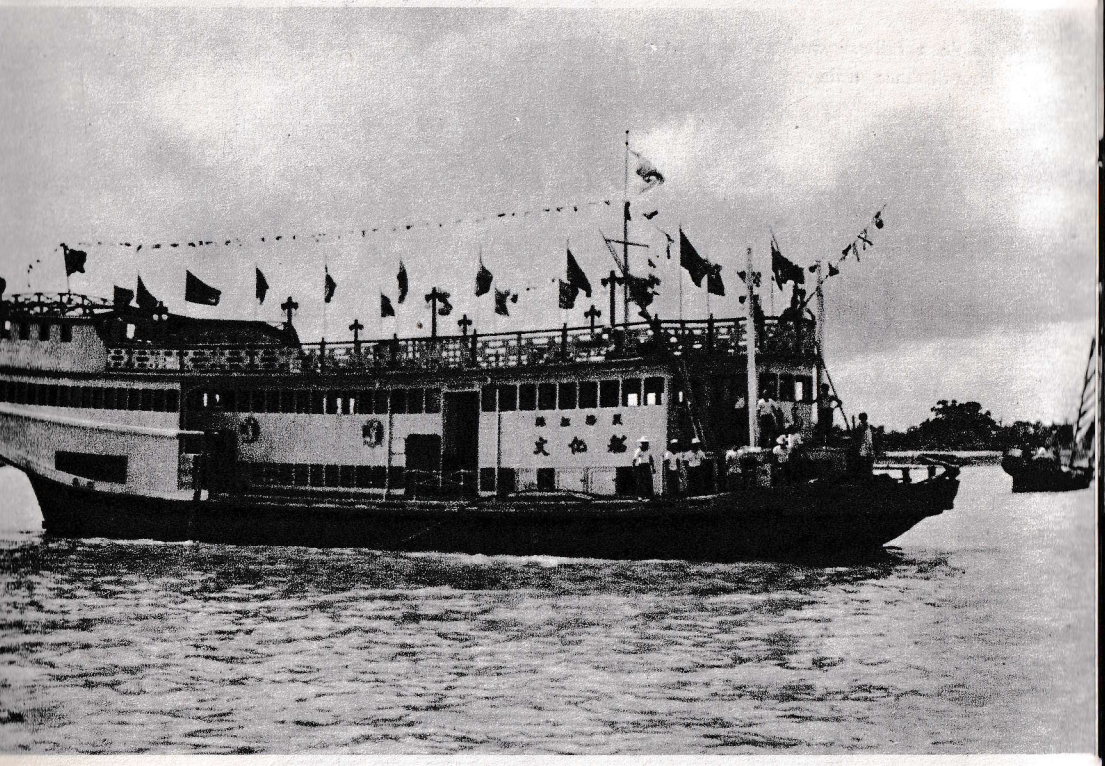
A cultural palace in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region

The Working People's Cultura Palace in Chungking

A theatre in the Wuhan Iron and Steel Company

Inside a railway workers' club on a long-distance train

Inside the club of a machine-tool plant



A floating cultural centre for seamen

THE Chinese workers are taking up a wide range of writing and dramatic work. At present, there are more than 100,000 workers' amateur cultural groups, which go in for drama, music, singing, fine arts and creative writing. About three million workers take a leading part in these activities. This new cultural talent is an important motivating force in pushing forward China's art and literature.

Wu Feng-chih is an advanced worker as well as one of the leading lights in cultural activities in her factory

Shantung workers present *Leap Forward Blossom Dance*

The *Ordos Dance* presented by workers of a lumber mill

A new show performed by miners in praise of their best colleagues

Embroidery Dance by Sun Li-fang, a woman worker of an asbestos factory

Women spinners rehearse a dance devoted to the technical innovations of the textile workers

Long Drum, a folk dance of Korean nationality, presented women workers of Kirin Prov

Two women textile workers making up for a performance

Yang Kuei-chen, a welder of an electric wire factory and a first-class innovator, in a *pingchu* opera

Huang Jen-jen, a woman worker in traditional Chinese handicrafts in Fukien Province, presents a dance drama *The Fishing Boat*

The amateur cultural troupe of an iron mine presents *Second Sister Changes for the Better,* written and produced by the troupe itself

Orchestra of traditional Chinese instruments of the Shanghai Workers' Art Troupe

A workers' chamber music group in a motor-car factory practising in their hostel

Peking workers render the song *We Sing Close by Chairman Mao*

The piano and violin are among the favourite instruments of the workers

Textile workers practise new songs after their shift

The wall bulletin of a machine-building factory has just come out

Li Ken-pao, a textile worker, recites his own poems

Two workers of Harbin, Han Tung-liang (left) and Jen Kuo-shun, discuss their own poems. They have both been accepted as members of the Heilungkiang branch of the Union of Chinese Writers

Worker writer Hu Wan-chun of Shanghai

Huang Pao-mei, an advanced textile worker, discusses a novel she plans to write

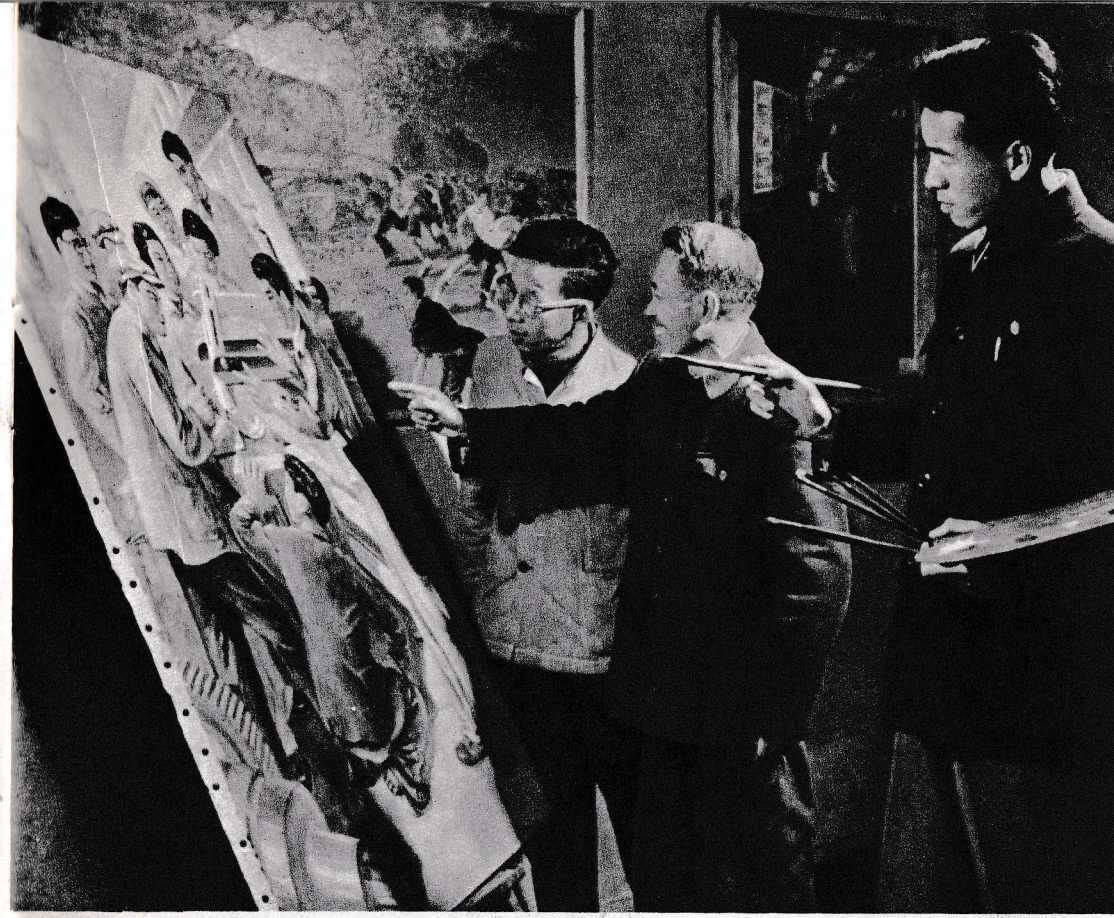
Miners with a literary flair gather together to discuss the writing of a new play

Workers of the Wuhan Iron and Steel Company who take an interest in writing gather for a discussion of their plan to write the history of the company's development

Wang Ching-po, a fitter, is keen on Chinese calligraphy

Students of a Liuchow workers' spare-time school in the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region sketching a landscape

Amateur artists among the motor-car workers discuss one of their new works



Tung Lien-pao (first from right), a worker in an aluminium appliances plant, has distinguished himself not only as a technical innovator but also as an artist

Retired miners of the Fushun Colliery playing chess

Two printing workers whose hobby is stamp collecting examine a recent find

Fishing after work

Holiday outing

PROFESSIONAL writers and artists and their organizations are always ready to give a helping hand to the workers in their artistic and literary activities. It is partly thanks to such help that the activities have forged ahead so fast. They often go into factories to live and work alongside the workers, and at the same time help with their cultural activities, or put on their own shows. All this is warmly welcomed by the workers.

Workers of a shipyard talk over problems of writing with Ai Ming-chih (first from right), a well-known author

The well-known writer Lao Sheh talks on problems of literary creation to the amateur dramatic players and writers in a factory

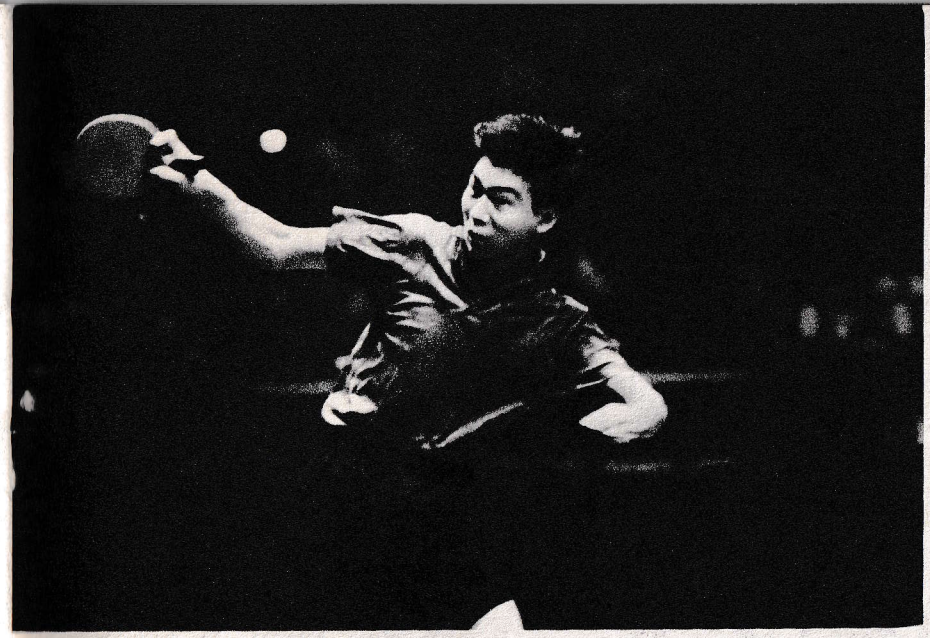
Wen Cheng-hsun (right), a lathe turner who has taken to writing poems, discusses a verse with Tsang Keh-chia, the well-known poet

The well-known ballad singer, Sun Lai-kuei (first from left), goes to a cotton mill to coach Li Shu-chen, a woman worker, in practising a form of balladry

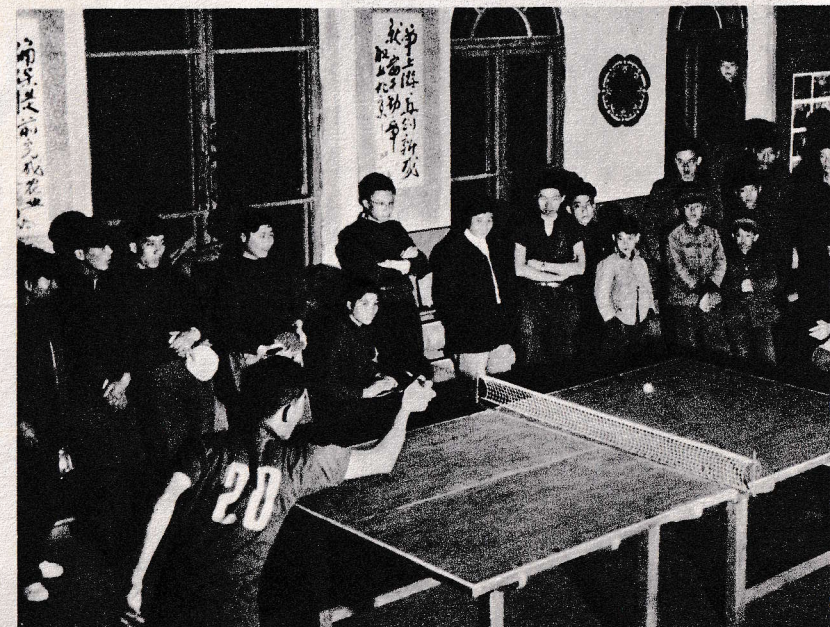
Hsiao Wen-yen (first from left), a Huaiyin opera actress from Shanghai, visits a textile mill to help the workers put on a show

FACTORIES, mines and other enterprises in New China provide excellent facilities for the athletic activities of the workers, who may choose from a wide selection of sports to suit their age, physical conditions, various occupations and preferences.

The newly-built Peking Workers' Gymnasium



Chang Hsieh-lin, a young worker from Shanghai who won third prize in the men's singles at the 26th World Table Tennis Championships held in Peking in 1961



Motor-car workers playing table tennis in their factory club

A basketball match among the steel workers

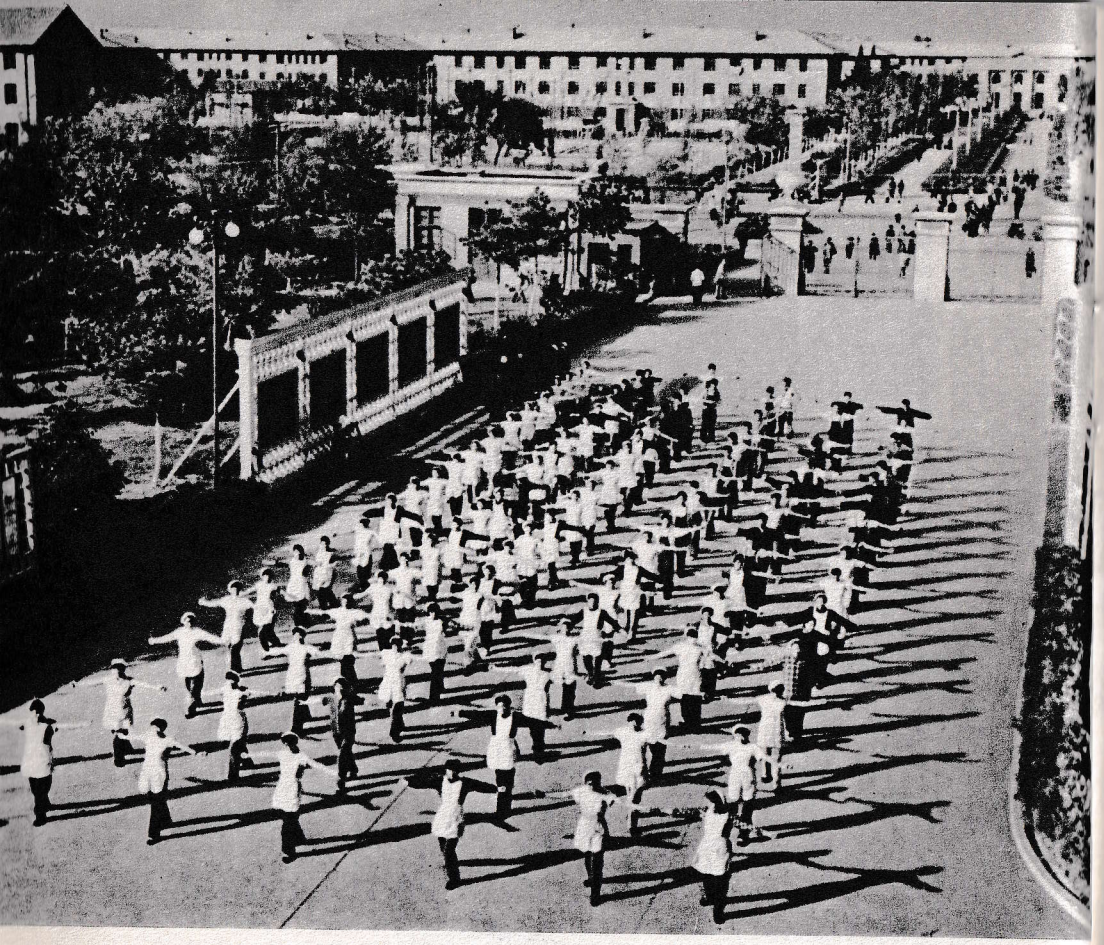
A soccer match between the machine-builders and workers of a commercial department

A volleyball match between people who work in educational fields and those of trade and financial departments

A basketball match between the women's teams of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company and the Peking Physical Education Institute

A sports team of the railway workers

Callisthenics performed by workers



Textile workers go in for physical jerks between work periods

Wool-processing workers practise long-distance running

Workers of the Chinghsi Mining Administration in Peking out for a day's hunting

Food-processing workers practise traditional Chinese shadow boxing

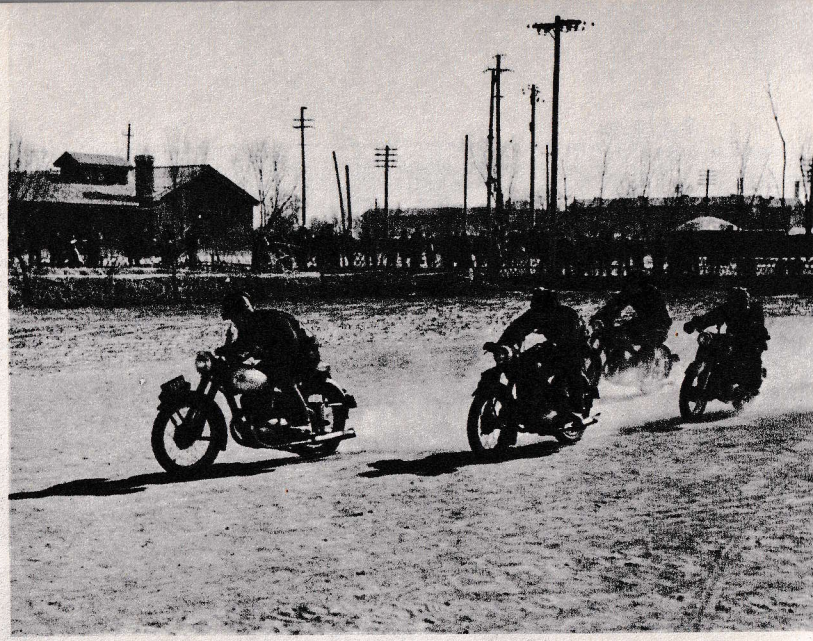
Skiing is a favourite sport among the workers in the northeastern provinces

Workers and other employees of the Urumchi Hospital, Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region, at a skating rink

Li Chien-hua, a Harbin worker, goes in for figure skating

This amateur hockey team of an electric wire factory is a force to reckon with on ice

Motor-cycling



Rowing

In summer, the swimming pool of the newly-built Peking Workers' Stadium attracts big crowds. The stadium holds 100,000 people

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